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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining “_” denotes additions and strikethrough “-” denotes deletions).

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication method, comprising:
receiving a request for a telecommunications service from a wireless client;
providing a local exchange point of presence to the wireless client in response to the request, the local exchange point of presence comprising a gateway selected based on the geographic location of the wireless client; and
providing the telecommunications service to the wireless client with a local telephone number through the local exchange point of presence.
2. (Original) The telecommunications method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications service comprises at least one of a messaging service, an information service, a paging service, a voicemail service, a facsimile service, an interactive voice response service, and a text-to-speech service.
3. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein the wireless client comprises at least one of a mobile telephone, a personal digital assistant, and an interactive pager.
4. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, further comprising establishing a connection to the wireless and providing a menu of telecommunications services capable of being displayed by the wireless client.
5. (Original) The communications method of claim 4, wherein establishing a connection to the wireless device comprises exchanging user information over a control channel.

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6. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request for telecommunications service comprises receiving a user input through a graphical user interface displayed on the wireless client.

7. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the local exchange point of presence to the wireless client comprises detecting a geographic location of the wireless client.

8. (Original) The communication method of claim 7, wherein the geographic location of the wireless client is detected during call set-up.

9. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the local exchange point of presence to the wireless client comprises referencing a lookup table associating geographic locations with local contact information.

10. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the local exchange point of presence comprises providing a local telephone number to the wireless client.

11. (Original) The communications method of claim 10, wherein the local telephone number includes an exchange corresponding to the geographic location of the wireless client.

12. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the local exchange point of presence comprises providing a local IP address to the wireless client.

13. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the telecommunications service comprises routing messages from a local gateway over an intermediate network to a remote gateway, thereby avoiding long distance charges.

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14. (Original) The communications method of claim 14, wherein the intermediate network comprises at least one of the Internet, the World Wide Web, and a telephone network.

15. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the telecommunications service comprises routing messages from a local gateway wireless client through at least one top node to a remote gateway, thereby avoiding long distance charges.

16. (Original) The communications method of claim 1, wherein providing the telecommunications service comprises communicating with the wireless client from a first gateway local to the geographic location of the wireless client.

17. (Original) The communication method of claim 16, further comprising:
communicating with a second wireless client from a second gateway local to the geographic location of the second wireless client, the first and second gateways being geographically remote from each other; and
routing messages from the first gateway to the second gateway through at least one of an intermediate network and a top node, thereby avoiding long distance charges.

18. (Original) The communication method of claim 16, further comprising:
communication with a server system from a second gateway local to the geographic location of the server system, the first and second gateways being geographically remote from each other; and
routing messages from the first gateway to the second gateway through at least one of an intermediate network and top node, thereby avoiding long distance charges.

19. (Original) The communications method of claim 18, wherein the requested telecommunications service is provided by the server system.

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20. (Currently Amended) A communication apparatus comprising a gateway configured to:

- receive a request for a telecommunications service from a wireless client;
- provide a local exchange point of presence to the wireless client in response to the request, the local exchange point of presence based on the geographic location of the wireless client; and
- provide the telecommunications service to the wireless client with a local telephone number through the local exchange point of presence.

21. (Currently Amended) A communications apparatus, comprising:

- means for receiving a request for a telecommunications service from a wireless client;
- means for providing a local exchange point of presence to the wireless client in response to the request, the local exchange point of presence comprising a gateway selected based on the geographic location of the wireless client; and
- means for providing the telecommunications service to the wireless client with a local telephone number through the local exchange point of presence.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium, the computer program comprising instructions to:

- receive a request for a telecommunications service from a wireless client;
- provide a local exchange point of presence to the wireless client in response to the request, the local exchange point of presence comprising a gateway selected based on the geographic location of the wireless client; and
- provide the telecommunications service to the wireless client with a local telephone number through the local exchange point of presence.

23. (Original) The computer program of claim 22, wherein the computer-readable medium comprises at least one of a disk, a client device, a network device, and a propagated signal.